

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01 /056 W

----- 072927

R 131401Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2570

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8424

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJ: DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONSIDERING MOVING AGAINST GKR LEADERSHIP

1. AT HIS INITIATIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER TIAN KIM CHIENG CAME TO SEE ENDERS THIS MORNING. THE DEMOCRATS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN CONVASSING THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON THE TACTIC THE PARTY SHOULD ADOPT AND HAD RECEIVED OVER A THOUSAND WRITTEN REPLIES. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE INPUTS THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET AUGUST 16 TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PARTY SHOULD NOT NOW LAUNCH A PUBLIC APPEAL FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP, WHICH HAS QTE ABUSED AND OFFENDED THE CAMBODIAN NATION UNQTE. TIAN THEN ASKED QTE WHAT THE EMBASSY THINKS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY UNQTE.

2. ENDERS REPLIED THAT WE REGARD THE DEMOCRATS AS A MAIN ELEMENT IN THE LOYAL OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, AND RECALLED THAT ON TWO EARLIER OCCASIONS WE HAD USED OUR INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION
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IN A BROAD COALITION OF ALL KHMER WHO BELIEVE IN THE

REPUBLIC. PERHAPS SUCH A COALITION CAN AGAIN BE
CONSIDERED LATER IN THE FALL, WHEN IT HAS BEEN DEMON-
STRATED THAT THE REPUBLIC WILL SURVIVE.

3. MEANWHILE, WE SAID, THE PROBLEM OF THE PHYSICAL
DEFENSE OF THE CAPTIAL DOMINATES ALL. IT IS QUITE APPARENT
THAT THE KHMER COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP THAT GOVERNS THE
INSURGENCY IS NOT NOW PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE NEGOTIATIONS.
THAT POSITION APPLIES TO THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP. A FORTIORI
IT APPLIES TO ANY FORMATION ON THE LEFT THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY
COMPETE WITH THE COMMUNISTS FOR POWER. THUS THE KEY NOW
IS TO SUCCESSFULLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY REPEL THE ATTACK
ON PHNOM PENH. ONCE THAT IS DONE, NEGOTIATIONS AND THE
POLITICAL EVOLUTION THAT MIGHT ACCOMPANY THEM ARE POSSIBLE.

4. TIAN INTERJECTED HERE THAT HE BELIEVED THE
INSURGENTS, WEAKENED BY U.S. AIR STRIKES, WOULD NOT
ATTEMPT A MAJOR ATTACK ON THE CAPTIAL. WE ANSWERED
THAT THE INSURGENTS ARE INDEED WEAKENED. BUT THAT
DOES NOT MEAN THEY WON'T ATTACK, HOPING TO EXPLOIT
DISUNITY AND BAD MORALE ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE. IT
DOES MEAN THAT IF GKR HOLDS FAST, THE INSURGENTS WILL
BE DEFEATED.

5. WE WENT ON THAT ANY MANIFESTO OR CAMPAIGN AGAINST
THE LEADERSHIP AT THIS TIME COULD ONLY HAVE A SPLITTING
EFFECT ON THE GKR AND SAP THE DEFENSE OF PHNOM PENH.
WE COULD NOT SEE HOW THAT COULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF
ANY PATRIOTIC KHMER. LATER, WHEN THE SURVIVAL OF THE
REPUBLIC IS DEMONSTRATED, A MORE NORMAL POLITICAL
EVOLUTION MAY RESUME. NOW THE WATCHWORD MUST BE
ABSOLUTE SOLIDARITY.

6. IN OTHER WORDS, TIAN SAID, NOW IS QTE NOT THE
MOMENT UNQTE. WE SAID PRECISELY.

7. COMMENT: I AM SEEING SON SANN TODAY AT THIS REQUEST
AND WILL PUT THE SAME MESSAGE TO HIM, SHOULD HE AGAIN
PROMOTE THE DEMOCRATS AS THE ANSWER. ENDERS AND TIAN
AGREED TO MEET AT WEEK'S END, IN CASE THE DEMOCRATS
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START ROCKING THE BOAT.
SWANK

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NNN

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